

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN FREDERIC GARMON,

Plaintiff,

v.

PERALTA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT, et al

Defendant.

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Civil Case No. C-04-3772 WDB

**COURT'S *AMENDED* OPENING  
JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

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**1. DUTY OF JURY**

Ladies and gentlemen: Now that you are the jury in this case, I want to take a few minutes to tell you something about your duties as jurors and to give you some instructions.

At the end of the trial I will give you instructions again. Those final instructions might cover some matters that are not addressed in these opening instructions. Those final instructions will be controlling during your deliberations.

After you have heard all the evidence and the closing arguments I also will give you a set of questions, called "Special Interrogatories," that you will answer to render your verdict. These Special Interrogatories will help assure that you understand the applicable legal principles and that you address the issues in the sequence the law requires.

It will be your duty to decide from the evidence what the facts are. You, and you alone, are the judges of the facts. You will hear the evidence, decide what the facts are, and then apply the law that I will give you to those facts. That is how you will reach your verdict. In doing so, you must follow that law whether you agree with it or not.

You should not take anything I may say or do during the trial as indicating what I think of the evidence or what I think your verdict should be.

**2. COURT'S QUESTIONS TO WITNESSES**

During the course of a trial, I may occasionally ask questions of a witness in order to clarify something. Do not assume that I hold any opinion on the matters about which I pose questions. Remember that you, as jurors, are the sole judges of the facts of this case.

### 3. CLAIMS AND DEFENSES

To help you follow the evidence, I will give you a brief summary of the parties' positions. This summary is for your general guidance and is not evidence.

As I told you during the jury selection process, the plaintiff in this case is John Garmon. The defendants are Peralta Community College District, the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, and Darryl Moore.

John Garmon is an individual who was employed as the President of Vista Community College in Berkeley, California. Vista is now called Berkeley City College. However, in these proceedings, we refer to the college as Vista Community College. Dr. Garmon resides in Berkeley, California and currently teaches at the College of Alameda.

Peralta Community College District ("Peralta") is a governmental entity that maintains and operates four community colleges in the Bay Area including Vista College.

The Peralta Community College District's Board of Trustees ("the Board") is the entity that administers business on behalf of Peralta. The Board is made up of seven members, called "trustees." The people who sit on the Board establish policy about how to run Peralta.

Darryl Moore is an individual and, during the period relevant to this case, served as a trustee on the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees. Mr. Moore currently resides in Berkeley, California. Mr. Moore is no longer a member of the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees.

Dr. Garmon took office as President of Vista on July 1, 2001. On May 11, 2004, the Board voted not to renew his contract as President of Vista College.

In this trial, Dr. Garmon asserts four claims, three of which are based on federal law and one of which is based on state law. He asserts the three federal law claims against the District and its Board of Trustees, not against Mr. Moore. He asserts the

1 state law claim only against Mr. Moore, not against the District or its Board of  
2 Trustees.

3  
4 In the federal claims, Dr. Garmon alleges that the District and its Board  
5 discriminated against him on the basis of race and gender and retaliated against him  
6 for speaking out against what he alleges were racially motivated employment  
7 decisions. In the one state law claim, Dr. Garmon alleges that Mr. Moore defamed  
8 him in statements made to the press.

9 In his federal claim for race discrimination, Dr. Garmon alleges that his race,  
10 Caucasian, was a motivating factor in the Board's decision not to renew his contract  
11 to serve as President of Vista College.

12 In his federal claim for gender discrimination, Dr. Garmon alleges that his  
13 gender, that is, the fact that he is male, was a motivating factor in the Board's decision  
14 not to renew his contract to serve as President of Vista College.

15 In his federal claim for retaliation, Dr. Garmon alleges that he complained that,  
16 in his view, the Board favored African-American applicants over applicants of other  
17 races when recruiting and hiring for positions related to the community colleges, and  
18 he alleges that the Board voted not to renew his contract in retaliation for his  
19 opposition to the practices that he believed were discriminatory.

20 In his claim for defamation under California law, Dr. Garmon alleges that Mr.  
21 Moore told the media that Dr. Garmon's contract was not renewed because Dr.  
22 Garmon performed poorly as Vista President and that the statements by Mr. Moore  
23 were false and defamatory.

24 Defendants deny Dr. Garmon's claims and dispute his version of the facts.  
25 Peralta and the Board contend that neither Dr. Garmon's race nor his gender was a  
26 factor in the Board's decision not to renew Dr. Garmon's contract to serve as  
27 President of Vista. Defendants also contend that they did not retaliate against Dr.  
28 Garmon and, further, that the Board had lawful reasons for not renewing Dr.

1 Garmon's contract. Finally, defendant Moore asserts that he did not defame Dr.  
2 Garmon.

3  
4 **4. BURDEN OF PROOF – PREPONDERANCE**  
5 **OF THE EVIDENCE**

6 The law requires the party asserting a claim or presenting an affirmative  
7 defense to prove each fact that is essential to that party's claim or defense. In civil  
8 cases, like this one, the standard that a party usually must satisfy in order to "prove"  
9 any given fact is called "preponderance of the evidence."

10 To satisfy this standard, the party must persuade you, when you properly  
11 consider all the evidence that has been admitted during the trial, that the fact is more  
12 probably true than not true.

13 In making this determination, you must consider all the evidence – regardless  
14 of who presented it.

15 Unless the Court directs you that Dr. Garmon must meet a more exacting  
16 burden with respect to a specific element of a claim, Dr. Garmon has the burden of  
17 proving by a preponderance of the evidence all of the facts necessary to establish the  
18 essential elements of his claims. In addition, unless otherwise stated, Dr. Garmon has  
19 the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence all facts necessary to  
20 establish the nature and extent of the injuries he claims to have suffered, and the  
21 amount of money damages needed to compensate him for those injuries.

22  
23  
24 **5. WHAT IS EVIDENCE**

25 The evidence from which you are to decide what the facts are consists of:

- 26 1. the sworn testimony of witnesses, on both direct and cross-examination,  
27 regardless of who calls the witness;  
28 2. the exhibits that are received into evidence;

3. facts on which all the parties agree (that is, facts to which all parties stipulate); and
4. other facts, if any, that I order you to accept as established.

## **6. WHAT IS NOT EVIDENCE**

The following things are not evidence, and you must not consider them as evidence in deciding what the facts are in this case:

1. statements or arguments by the attorneys;
2. questions or objections by the attorneys;
3. testimony that I instruct you to disregard;
4. anything you may see or hear when the court is not in session, even if what you see or hear is done or said by one of the parties or by one of the witnesses.

## **7. EVIDENCE FOR LIMITED PURPOSE**

Some evidence may be admitted for a limited purpose only. If I instruct you that an item of evidence has been admitted for a limited purpose, you must consider it only for that limited purpose and for no other purpose.

## **8. DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE**

Evidence may be direct or circumstantial.

Direct evidence sheds light directly on whether a disputed fact is true or not true. For example, testimony by a witness about what that witness actually saw or did could be direct evidence.

Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact.





1                                   **10. OPINION EVIDENCE (EXPERT WITNESSES)**

2           You may hear testimony from persons who, because of education or  
3 experience, are permitted to state opinions and the reasons for their opinions.

4           Opinion testimony should be judged just like any other testimony. You may  
5 accept it or reject it, in whole or in part, and may give it as much weight as you think  
6 it deserves, considering the witness' education and experience, the reasons given for  
7 the opinion, and all the other evidence in the case.

8  
9  
10                                   **11. DEPOSITIONS**

11           A deposition is the sworn testimony of a witness taken before trial. Just like  
12 witnesses who testify in person during the trial, the witness at a deposition is placed  
13 under oath to tell the truth, and lawyers for each party may ask questions. The  
14 questions and answers are recorded.

15           Deposition testimony is entitled to the same consideration and is to be judged,  
16 insofar as possible, in the same way as if the witness had been present to testify.

17           If deposition testimony is read to you, you must not place any significance on  
18 the behavior or tone of voice of any person reading the questions or answers.

19  
20  
21                                   **12. RULINGS ON OBJECTIONS**

22           There are rules of evidence which control what can be received into evidence.  
23  
24 When a lawyer asks a question or offers an exhibit into evidence, and a lawyer on the  
25 other side thinks that what is being asked or offered is not admissible under the rules  
26 of evidence, that lawyer may object.

27           If I overrule the objection, the question may be answered or the exhibit  
28 received.

1 If I sustain the objection, the question cannot be answered, and the exhibit  
2 cannot be received. Whenever I sustain an objection to a question, you must ignore  
3 the question and must not guess what the answer might have been.

4 Sometimes I may order that evidence be stricken from the record and that you  
5 disregard or ignore the evidence. That means that when you are deciding the case,  
6 you must not consider the evidence that I told you to disregard.

### 7 8 9 **13. JUROR QUESTIONS**

10 While it is not customary for a juror to pose a question to a witness, the court  
11 has the discretion to decide whether a question a juror has should be put to a witness.

12 If you wish to have a question posed to a witness, do not seek to interrupt a  
13 lawyer's examination. Instead, make a note of the question and pay attention to the  
14 rest of the questions and answers that are forthcoming while the witness is on the  
15 stand. There is a substantial likelihood that a lawyer will ask the question you have  
16 in mind sometime before all the examination (direct, cross, and re-direct) of the  
17 witness has been completed -- or that the witness' additional testimony will provide  
18 you with the information you wanted.

19 If you still wish to have the question posed after all the examination of the  
20 witness has been completed, write the question on a piece of paper, fold the paper  
21 over so the question is not visible, raise your hand, and submit the question for my  
22 consideration. Do not disclose the question to anyone else -- and do not discuss it, or  
23 what makes you want to ask it, with anyone else, including, of course, any of the  
24 other jurors. Please keep in mind that you are not to discuss the evidence or the case  
25 with other jurors until the end of the trial when I instruct you to commence your  
26 deliberations.

27 Before deciding whether I will pose the question to the witness, I may consult  
28 with the attorneys.

1 If I conclude that posing the question to the witness would be consistent with  
2 the rules of evidence and otherwise appropriate, I will pose the question for you.

3  
4  
5 **14. TRANSITIONAL INSTRUCTION**

6 I will now give you some instructions about the law that applies to the parties'  
7 specific claims. I will give you more detailed instructions about the law that applies  
8 to each specific claim near the end of the trial.

9  
10  
11 **15. FEDERAL CLAIM -- DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE**  
12 **-- GENERALLY**

13 Dr. Garmon has brought a claim of employment discrimination against  
14 defendants Peralta and the Board (collectively referred to as "Peralta"). Dr. Garmon  
15 claims that his race was a motivating factor in defendants' decision not to renew his  
16 contract to serve as President of Vista. Defendants deny that Dr. Garmon's race was  
17 a motivating factor in their decision not to renew plaintiff's contract. Defendants  
18 further contend that the decision not to renew Dr. Garmon's contract was based upon  
19 lawful reasons.

20  
21  
22 **16. FEDERAL CLAIM -- DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE**  
23 **-- ELEMENTS AND BURDEN OF PROOF**

24 At this juncture I will describe for you the sequence of the issues that arise  
25 under Dr. Garmon's claim that his race was a motivating factor in Peralta's decision  
26 not to renew his contract as the President of Vista Community College.

27  
28 Because Dr. Garmon is the plaintiff, the law places the burden on him with  
respect to the first issue in this sequence. Thus, at the outset of the sequence, it will

1 be Dr. Garmon's burden to try to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that his  
2 race was a motivating factor in Peralta's decision not to renew his contract.

3 If Dr. Garmon fails to prove that his race was a motivating factor in  
4 defendants' decision not to renew his contract as Vista's President, your verdict on  
5 this claim must be for defendants.

6 If Dr. Garmon proves that his race was a motivating factor in the decision, you  
7 may consider evidence about whether there were other motivating factors for that  
8 decision as well.

9 The law places the burden on the defendants (Peralta) to prove, by a  
10 preponderance of the evidence, that there were other motivating factors in their  
11 decision and that those factors were lawful.

12 If defendants prove that there were any such other motivating factors in their  
13 decision, then the law gives the defendants an opportunity to try to prove that, given  
14 the other motivating factors, they would have decided not to renew Dr. Garmon's  
15 contract even if Dr. Garmon's race had not been a motivating factor. In other words,  
16 the law gives the defendants an opportunity to try to prove that they would have made  
17 the same decision anyway, independent of any role his race played in the matter.

18 So, if the defendants prove that there were other lawful motivating factors in  
19 the decision, you will proceed to determine whether defendants also prove that,  
20 because of those motivating factors, they would have decided not to renew Dr.  
21 Garmon's contract even if his race had not been any kind of factor at all.

22  
23  
24 **17. FEDERAL CLAIM -- DISCRIMINATION BASED ON**  
25 **GENDER -- GENERALLY**

26 Dr. Garmon has brought a second claim of employment discrimination against  
27 defendants. Dr. Garmon claims that his gender -- the fact that he is male -- was a  
28 motivating factor in defendants' decision not to renew his contract. Defendants deny  
that Dr. Garmon's gender was a motivating factor in their decision not to renew

1 plaintiff's contract. Defendants further contend that the decision not to renew Dr.  
2 Garmon's contract was based upon lawful reasons.

3  
4  
5 **18. FEDERAL CLAIM -- DISCRIMINATION BASED ON**  
6 **GENDER – ELEMENTS AND BURDEN OF PROOF**

7 At this juncture I will describe for you the sequence of the issues that arise  
8 under Dr. Garmon's claim that his gender was a motivating factor in Peralta's  
9 decision not to renew his contract as the President of Vista Community College.

10  
11 Because Dr. Garmon is the plaintiff, the law places the burden on him with  
12 respect to the first issue in this sequence. Thus, at the outset of the sequence, it will  
13 be Dr. Garmon's burden to try to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that his  
14 gender was a motivating factor in Peralta's decision not to renew his contract.

15 If Dr. Garmon fails to prove that his gender was a motivating factor in  
16 defendants' decision not to renew his contract as Vista's President, your verdict on  
17 this claim must be for defendants.

18 If Dr. Garmon proves that his gender was a motivating factor in the decision,  
19 you may consider evidence about whether there were other motivating factors for that  
20 decision as well.

21  
22 The law places the burden on the defendants (Peralta) to prove, by a  
23 preponderance of the evidence, that there were other motivating factors in their  
24 decision and that those factors were lawful.

25 If defendants prove that there were any such other motivating factors in their  
26 decision, then the law gives the defendants an opportunity to try to prove that, given  
27 the other motivating factors, they would have decided not to renew Dr. Garmon's  
28 contract even if Dr. Garmon's gender had not been a motivating factor. In other  
words, the law gives the defendants an opportunity to try to prove that they would

1 have made the same decision anyway, independent of any role his gender played in  
2 the matter.

3 So, if the defendants prove that there were other lawful motivating factors in  
4 the decision, you will proceed to determine whether defendants also prove that,  
5 because of those motivating factors, they would have decided not to renew Dr.  
6 Garmon's contract even if his gender had not been any kind of factor at all.

### 8 **19. FEDERAL CLAIM – RETALIATION**

9 Federal law prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee  
10 because the employee opposed decisions or practices that the employee reasonably  
11 believed were motivated by race discrimination.

12 One of Dr. Garmon's claims in this case is that one of the motivating factors in  
13 Peralta's decision not to renew his contract was a desire to retaliate against him for  
14 opposing employment decisions or practices by Peralta that Dr. Garmon thought were  
15 motivated by racial discrimination.

16 In proceeding with this claim, Dr. Garmon has the burden of proving each of  
17 the following elements:

- 18 1. That he expressed opposition to decisions or practices by Peralta on the  
19 ground that they were motivated by racial discrimination,
- 20 2. That it was reasonable, given all the circumstances, for him to believe  
21 that the decisions or practices to which he expressed opposition were  
22 motivated by racial discrimination,
- 23 3. That the opposition he expressed to decisions or practices that he  
24 reasonably believed were discriminatory was a motivating factor in  
25 Peralta's decision not to renew his contract.

26  
27 If Dr. Garmon fails to prove any one of these elements, then your verdict on the  
28 retaliation claim must be for defendants.

1 On the other hand, if Dr. Garmon proves these required elements, you would  
2 proceed to consider any evidence about whether there were additional motivating  
3 factors in defendants' decision that were lawful.

4 Defendants would have the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the  
5 evidence, that there were other motivating factors in their decision and that those  
6 factors were lawful.

7 If defendants were to prove that there were other motivating factors – that were  
8 lawful – in their decision not to renew the contract, then the law would permit the  
9 defendants to try to prove that, because of those other factors, the defendants would  
10 have decided not to renew Dr. Garmon's contract even if the defendants had not taken  
11 Mr. Garmon's opposition to practices that he believed were discriminatory into  
12 account when they were making their decision.

## 13 14 15 **20. DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION**

### 16 **-- DEFINITION OF "A MOTIVATING FACTOR"**

17 The issue of whether an unlawful purpose was a motivating factor in the  
18 decision not to renew Dr. Garmon's contract as Vista's President arises under each of  
19 Dr. Garmon's federal claims.

20 The law requires you to apply the following principles when you decide  
21 whether Dr. Garmon has met his burden of proving that any particular unlawful  
22 purpose was "a motivating factor" in Peralta's decision.

23 To meet this burden, Dr. Garmon is not required to prove that any given  
24 unlawful purpose (race, gender, or retaliation) was the only motivating factor in  
25 Peralta's decision, or even that the alleged unlawful purpose was the primary  
26 motivating factor in the decision.

27 Instead, what the law requires is that Dr. Garmon prove (by a preponderance of  
28 the evidence) that the particular alleged unlawful consideration was at least one of the  
motivating factors in Peralta's decision.



**21. CALIFORNIA STATE LAW -- DEFAMATION**  
**-- ELEMENTS**

The fourth claim that Dr. Garmon brings in this case is only against Mr. Moore (not the District or its Board of Trustees) and is for defamation.

Dr. Garmon claims that he was defamed by Mr. Moore when Mr. Moore gave a newspaper reporter false reasons for Peralta's decision not to renew Dr. Garmon's contract – and those false reasons reflected badly on Dr. Garmon's competence and job performance.

The statements that Dr. Garmon asserts that Mr. Moore made obviously reflect badly on Dr. Garmon's competence and job performance. You will address other issues when you decide whether Dr. Garmon has proved his defamation claim.

To proceed with his defamation claim against Mr. Moore in the setting of this case, Dr. Garmon must prove each of the following three things by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. That Mr. Moore made one or more of the statements in question to someone other than Dr. Garmon,
2. That the person to whom Mr. Moore spoke reasonably understood that the statement or statements were about Dr. Garmon, and
3. That the statement or statements were false.

If Dr. Garmon fails to prove any one of these elements, you must enter judgment on this claim in favor of Mr. Moore.

If Dr. Garmon proves all three of the above elements by a preponderance of the evidence, you will proceed to the next issue.

This next issue is whether, at the time he made the statements, Mr. Moore either (1) knew they were false or (2) had serious doubts about the truth of the statements. To prevail on his defamation claim, Dr. Garmon has the burden of proving either that Mr. Moore knew the statements were false or that he had serious doubts about their truth.

1       Moreover, the law imposes on Dr. Garmon a more demanding burden of proof  
2 as to this last issue. The burden of proof as to this last issue is not “preponderance of  
3 the evidence,” but the higher standard of “clear and convincing evidence.” To satisfy  
4 this higher standard, the evidence on which Dr. Garmon relies must persuade you that  
5 it is highly probable that Mr. Moore either knew the statements were false or had  
6 serious doubts about their truth.

## 9                                   **22. CAUSATION – GENERALLY**

10       In a moment, I will give you instructions about damages. Before I give you  
11 those instructions, however, I will instruct you about the concept of “causation.”

12       If Dr. Garmon proves that conduct by a defendant violated Dr. Garmon’s rights  
13 under federal or state law, you will be called upon to determine whether Dr. Garmon  
14 also proves that the wrongful conduct “caused” Dr. Garmon to suffer the harm he  
15 claims.

16       Dr. Garmon has the burden of proving “causation” -- which he must establish  
17 by a preponderance of the evidence. Under the law, damages are “caused” by an act  
18 when Dr. Garmon proves that the act was a substantial factor in bringing about the  
19 damages he claims.

## 21                                   **23. DAMAGES -- INTRODUCTORY INSTRUCTION**

22       If you conclude that Dr. Garmon has proved that wrongful conduct by a  
23 defendant caused Dr. Garmon to suffer injury, loss, or harm, you will proceed to  
24 determine what amount of damages Dr. Garmon has proved he is entitled to recover.  
25 For most of the kinds of harms he claims to have suffered, Dr. Garmon has the burden  
26 of proving damages by a preponderance of the evidence. Damages means the amount  
27 of money that will reasonably and fairly compensate Dr. Garmon for any injury you  
28 find was caused by action by a defendant that you found to be wrongful.

1       You must determine the amount of the damages to be awarded according to the  
2 evidence and the instructions in the law that I will give you on the subject of  
3 damages.

4       You may not include in compensatory damages any amounts for the purpose of  
5 punishing a defendant or setting an example.

6       With respect to his claims for race discrimination, gender discrimination and  
7 retaliation, Dr. Garmon is claiming compensatory damages for emotional distress,  
8 pain and suffering, inconvenience, and mental anguish.

9       With respect to his claim for defamation, Dr. Garmon is seeking compensation  
10 for emotional and economic harms and for damage to his reputation.

11  
12  
13                   **24. DAMAGES -- COMPENSATORY DAMAGES**  
14                   **FOR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

15       A category of damages that Dr. Garmon is claiming in this case is  
16 compensatory damages for “emotional distress.”

17       The term “emotional distress” means mental or emotional distress, suffering, or  
18 anguish. It includes all unpleasant mental or emotional reactions, such as fright,  
19 nervousness, grief, anxiety, worry, mortification, shock, humiliation and indignity, as  
20 well as physical pain.

21       You must award reasonable compensation for emotional distress if you find  
22 that damages of these kinds were caused in the past, or are reasonably certain to be  
23 caused in the future, by actions by a defendant that you have concluded violate Dr.  
24 Garmon’s rights.

25       No exact standard exists for fixing the compensation to be awarded for this  
26 element of damages. Nor is the opinion of any witness required about the amount of  
27 compensation that would be reasonable for this kind of damages. It is impossible to  
28 present direct evidence of the monetary value of such an intangible as emotional  
distress. But that fact is not a bar to recovery by Dr. Garmon for these kinds of

1 harms. It is your responsibility, as the jury, to determine what amount of monetary  
2 damages constitutes fair compensation for these kinds of harms -- and then to award  
3 that amount, no more and no less.

4 If the ways you resolve the issues about the lawfulness of a defendant's  
5 conduct and about causation make it appropriate for you to determine the amount of  
6 money that Dr. Garmon should be awarded for these kinds of damages, you should  
7 take into account the nature, character, and seriousness of any emotional distress that  
8 Dr. Garmon proved he experienced as a result of defendant's wrongful conduct. You  
9 must consider the extent and duration of any such damages, as any award you make  
10 must cover Dr. Garmon's damages since the wrongdoing, to the present time, and  
11 even into the future -- if you find that the proofs presented support a conclusion that  
12 Dr. Garmon's emotional distress and its consequences have continued to the present  
13 time or can reasonably be expected to continue in the future.

14  
15  
16 **25. DAMAGES -- SPECULATIVE DAMAGES**  
17 **NOT PERMITTED**

18 You may not award Dr. Garmon speculative damages, which means  
19 compensation for future loss or harm which, while possible, is not reasonably certain  
20 to occur.

21 However, if Dr. Garmon proves that wrongful conduct by a defendant will  
22 cause him to suffer damages in the future, you should compensate Dr. Garmon for all  
23 the loss or harm that he proves he is reasonably certain to suffer in the future.

24  
25  
26 **26. DAMAGES FOR DEPRIVATION OF**  
27 **FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS**  
28 **-- ACTUAL OR NOMINAL DAMAGES**

1 If you find for the plaintiff on any of his federal claims (that is, his claim for  
2 race discrimination, gender discrimination or retaliation), but you find that the  
3 plaintiff has failed to prove actual damages (that is, that he suffered compensable  
4 harm), you must return an award on that claim of nominal damages of one dollar  
5 (\$1.00).

6  
7  
8  
9 **27. CALIFORNIA LAW – DAMAGES**  
10 **IN DEFAMATION CLAIMS**

11 If Dr. Garmon satisfies all the requirements for establishing a defamation  
12 claim, the jury will proceed to consider issues related to damages.

13 I will give the jury detailed instructions about damages after all the evidence  
14 has been presented. For now, there are just a few principles about the damages aspect  
15 of the defamation claim that you need to understand.

16 For most of the kinds of defamation damages that Dr. Garmon is claiming he  
17 will be required to prove that he suffered the harms for which he seeks compensation  
18 and that defamatory conduct was a substantial factor in bringing about (causing)  
19 those harms.

20 Dr. Garmon is claiming that, among other things, he suffered both emotional  
21 and economic harm as a result of the publication of Mr. Moore's words. So, during  
22 the course of the trial, you may hear evidence related to the parties' dispute about how  
23 the publication of Mr. Moore's words affected Dr. Garmon's emotions, how it affected  
24 his reputation, and how it affected his income and expenses.

**28. CALIFORNIA LAW – DAMAGES – DEFAMATION**  
**-- PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

As part of his defamation claim, Dr. Garmon also seeks a category of damages called “punitive damages” as against Mr. Moore.

Dr. Garmon may recover damages to punish Mr. Moore if Dr. Garmon proves **by clear and convincing evidence** that Mr. Moore acted with “malice, oppression, or fraud” when he made the statements, if any, that you determine to be defamatory.

“Malice,” “oppression,” and “fraud” are legal phrases of art that I will define for you.

As I have explained, “clear and convincing evidence” is a more exacting standard of proof than “preponderance of the evidence.” In order to satisfy this more exacting standard, plaintiff must persuade you that it is highly probable that this fact is true.

To prove that Mr. Moore acted with “malice,” Dr. Garmon must prove either (1) that Mr. Moore acted with intent to cause injury, or (2) that Mr. Moore’s conduct was despicable and was done with a willful and knowing disregard of the rights or safety of another. A person acts with knowing disregard when he or she is aware of the probable dangerous consequences of his or her conduct and deliberately fails to avoid those consequences.

“Oppression” means that Mr. Moore’s conduct was despicable and subjected Dr. Garmon to cruel and unjust hardship in knowing disregard of his rights.

“Despicable conduct” is conduct that is so mean, vile, base, or contemptible that it would be looked down on and despised by reasonable people.

“Fraud” means that Mr. Moore intentionally misrepresented or concealed a material fact and did so intending to deprive Dr. Garmon of property or of a legal right or otherwise to cause him injury.

**29. DAMAGES – MITIGATION**

The plaintiff has a duty to use reasonable efforts to mitigate economic damages. To mitigate means to avoid or reduce damages.

Defendants have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. That Dr. Garmon failed to use reasonable efforts to mitigate economic damages,
2. The amount by which damages would have been mitigated if Dr. Garmon had used reasonable efforts to mitigate damages.

**30. CONDUCT OF THE JURY**

I will now say a few words about your conduct as jurors.

First, do not talk to each other about this case or about anyone who has anything to do with it until the end of the case when you go to the jury room to decide on your verdict.

Second, do not talk with anyone else about this case, or about anyone who has anything to do with it, until the trial has ended and you have been discharged as jurors. "Anyone else" includes members of your family and your friends. You may tell them that you are a juror, but don't tell them anything about the case until after you have been discharged by me.

Third, do not let anyone talk to you about the case or about anyone who has anything to do with it. If someone should try to talk to you about the case, please report it to me immediately.

Fourth, do not read any news stories or articles, or listen to any radio or television reports, about the case or about anyone who has anything to do with it.

Fifth, do not do any research into matters related to the case, such as consulting dictionaries or other reference materials, and do not make any investigation about the case on your own.

1 Sixth, if you need to communicate with me, simply give a signed note to the  
2 courtroom deputy or law clerk to give to me.

3 Seventh, do not make up your mind about what the verdict should be until after  
4 all the evidence and arguments have been presented and you have gone to the jury  
5 room to decide the case and you and your fellow jurors have discussed the evidence.  
6 Keep an open mind until then.

### 9 31. NO TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE TO JURY

10 At the end of the trial, you will have to make your decisions based on the  
11 documents that have been admitted into evidence and your recollection of the  
12 testimony. You will not have a written transcript to consult, and it is difficult and  
13 time-consuming for the reporter to read back lengthy testimony. I therefore urge you  
14 to pay close attention to the testimony as it is given.

### 17 32. TAKING NOTES

18 If you wish, you may take notes to help you remember what witnesses say.

19 If you take notes, keep them to yourself until, at the end of the trial, you and  
20 your fellow jurors go to the jury room to begin your deliberations.

21 Do not let note-taking distract you so that you do not hear other answers by  
22 witnesses.

23 When you leave, your notes must be left in an envelope in the jury room.



### 33. BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES

From time to time during the trial it may become necessary for me to talk with the attorneys out of the hearing of the jury, either by having a conference at the bench when the jury is present in the courtroom, or by calling a recess. Please understand that while you are waiting, we are working. The purpose of such conferences is not to keep relevant and admissible information from you, but to enable me to decide how certain matters are to be treated under the rules of evidence and to avoid confusion and error.

We will do our best to keep the number and length of these conferences to a minimum.

I may not always grant an attorney's request for a conference. Do not consider my granting or denying a request for a conference as any indication of my opinion of the case or of what your verdict should be.

### 34. OUTLINE OF TRIAL

I will now give you a brief and general outline of the trial process, which is about to begin.

First, each side will be given an opportunity to make an opening statement. An opening statement is not evidence. It is simply an outline to help you understand what that party expects the evidence to be.

After the opening statements, counsel for Dr. Garmon will present evidence -- witnesses and exhibits -- and counsel for defendants may cross-examine Dr. Garmon's witnesses. Then defendants' counsel will present evidence (witnesses and exhibits), and counsel for Dr. Garmon may cross-examine defendants' witnesses.

After the evidence has been presented, I will instruct you in the law that applies to the case. Immediately thereafter, the lawyers will make their closing arguments.

You will then decide the case.

**35. SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES**

Your verdict in this case will be presented in the form of answers to questions that are called "Special Interrogatories."

This set of questions is specific to this case -- meaning, the questions are based on the specific legal principles that apply to the particular claims and defenses raised by Dr. Garmon and defendants.

I will give you this set of questions after all the evidence has been presented and before you begin your deliberations.

I have structured these questions carefully to make sure that you address the issues exactly as the law defines them and that you do so in the appropriate order. You must follow the instructions that accompany the Special Interrogatories carefully, and you must address the Interrogatories in the order presented. By following the instructions and answering the interrogatories as posed, you will cover all the issues that the law requires you to cover in this case and you will avoid confusion.

**36. CONCLUDING OPENING INSTRUCTION**

I have now concluded my preliminary instructions. Remember, I will instruct you in the relevant law again after the presentation of the evidence.

Plaintiff's counsel will now make her opening statement.